

**LOGAN CLENDENING LECTURES ON THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE—Tenth Series—The Transitions from Ancient Egyptian to Greek Medicine—J. B. deC. M. Saunders, M.D., University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas, 1963. 40 pages, \$2.00.**

This is a very well written essay which calls attention to the many and significant contributions of the Egyptians to Greek medicine. Little emphasis has been placed upon this in the past. Dr. Saunders marshals his facts exceedingly well and presents them in a very entertaining manner. He leaves no room for doubting the very substantial contributions of the Egyptians in theoretical and basic medical fields as well as in the empirical areas. This essay will afford good reading to anyone interested in the history of medicine.

JOHN S. LAWRENCE, M.D.

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**READINGS IN PHARMACOLOGY—B. Holmstedt and G. Liljestrand. Pergamon Press, New York, 1963. \$7.50.**

This is a most enjoyable and stimulating book. In it the heroes of pharmacology from the unknown Egyptians of the Ebers papyrus to the modern Domagk and Dale are remembered. In an almost conversational manner the brief life of the man and his setting are given, and then excerpts from important papers. Some of these latter make one's spine tingle—like the discovery of the humeral transmission of nervous impulses by Loewi, or the crystallization of insulin by Abel. All interested in the development of drugs will find pleasant reading in this book compiled by two Swedish masters of the field.

WINDSOR CUTTING, M.D.

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**PRINCIPLES OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY—5th Edition—Loyal Davis, M.D., M.S., Ph.D., D.Sc., (Hon.), F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S. (England, Hon.) F.R.C.S. (Edinburgh, Hon.), Professor of Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School; and Richard A. Davis, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S., Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1963. 608 pages, \$15.00.**

Although it is somewhat of a chore to review a book even if it concerns a subject in which one is particularly interested, the textbook by Dr. Loyal Davis and Dr. Richard Davis proved to be most interesting as well as instructive. It is written in a style that allows easy reading and at the same time, contains a wealth of clinical information.

Seldom does a textbook appear which so adequately fulfills the need of both the established neurosurgeon and the young man just beginning his training period. For the already established neurosurgeon it affords an excellent means of reviewing the various new procedures which have been developed as well as the pathological and physiological basis upon which the advances were made.

The most significant aspect of this book is its value to the young neurosurgeon still in training. It makes available a single source of reference in which he can read a summary of all worthwhile information concerning standard neurosurgical procedures and the basic information he needs to know with regard to the anatomy and physiology of the lesions for which these procedures were developed. This volume should prove a most valuable source of basic information so necessary as a foundation. Once this is established, and only then, is he in a position to cope intelligently with the vast amount of current literature.

I can wholeheartedly recommend **PRINCIPLES OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY** to all young men in training and I feel sure that most neurosurgeons would profit by its reading. For all others it will serve as an excellent source of reference.

C. HUNTER SHelden, M.D.

**ELEMENTARY MEDICAL STATISTICS—2nd Edition—Donald Mainland, M.B., Ch.B., D.Sc., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.C., F.A.S.A., Professor of Medical Statistics, New York University Medical Center. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1963. 381 pages, \$9.00.**

The author has long been a leading statistical consultant in medical research, and this fact shows well in this important book. The emphasis of the book is on comparison of statistical principles, rather than on the presentation of statistical methods and formulas. (Indeed, in the first two hundred pages not one formula is to be found.) The author gives his aim in the preface in these words: "The emphasis in these discussions is upon statistical thinking rather than arithmetic, and an attempt is made to elucidate statistical jargon". The reader will find that no knowledge of mathematics beyond arithmetic is necessary.

The book consists of sixteen chapters, the first ten of which deal with general issues of quantitative research, and bear such titles as "Questions for use in planning investigations and in evaluating reports", "Interpretation after an experiment", "Lost information". The last six chapters treat painlessly the most commonly useful statistical techniques. There is considerable emphasis on modern methods usually called "nonparametric"; Mainland makes clear that one of their primary virtues is their understandability in comparison with older and more standard devices.

The reader will find an honest correspondence between statistical arguments and medical examples. He will also find the text rather readable despite the fact that difficult ideas are grappled with when necessary. Because statistical methodology involves many substantial concepts, this, or any good statistics book, cannot be read like a short story, but the non-mathematical medical reader can hardly expect to find a treatment which will more surely repay his effort than this book, if he is willing, indeed, to invest a fair number of hours of hard work to learn something about statistics in medical investigation.

LINCOLN E. MOSES, Ph.D.

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**THE THYROID AND ITS DISEASES—Third Edition—James Howard Means, M.D., Jackson Professor of Medicine, Emeritus and Chief of Medical Services Emeritus; Leslie J. DeGroot, M.D., Associate in Medicine; and John B. Stanbury, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine; all of Harvard Medical School and Medical Service and Thyroid Clinic, Massachusetts General Hospital. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. (The Blakiston Division), New York, 1963. 618 pages, \$15.95.**

It is with great personal satisfaction that the reviewer welcomes the Third Edition of Means' work on *The Thyroid and Its Diseases*. This text represents the clinical observations and thoughts of the group of men who have run the Thyroid Clinic of the Massachusetts General Hospital since about 1913. It is a clinical work with a review of the basic biochemistry and physiology of the thyroid gland and its hormones including a chapter on the surgery of the thyroid by Oliver Cope, who is professor of surgery at the Harvard Medical School and contains pathological studies by Professor Austin L. Vickery of the Department of Pathology of the Harvard Medical School. The Third Edition combines the work of Leslie J. DeGroot, associate in medicine of the Harvard Medical School and the present chief of the clinic, Dr. John B. Stanbury. The work is scholarly and backed up by the personal investigations of the authorities as well as an excellent review of the current research literature on thyroid hormone metabolism. The references are current and one has the very definite feeling that the text is immediately up to date. For the twenty chapters into which the book is divided there are 1531 references. The book has a strong clinical function in that problems of diagnosis and treatment